

SMART GOVERNMENT



Summer 2009

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A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE WASHINGTON STATE PRODUCTIVITY BOARD



DID YOU KNOW?

Belle Reeves is the only female ever elected as Secretary of State. She served from 1938 until she died in 1948.

State Government Calendar of Events

May 30

REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES: MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

*Department of Veterans Affairs
Tacoma's War Memorial*

June 5

PRODUCTIVITY BOARD MEETING

Secretary of State

June 13

HIRE A VET EVENT

*Department of Veterans Affairs
Worksource Building, Vancouver*

June 13

GRADUATION COMMENCEMENT

*University of Washington
Guest Speaker Robert Gates*

July 3

PRODUCTIVITY BOARD MEETING

Secretary of State

July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Team from State Actuary provides agencies with hundreds of thousands in first-year savings

Eight employees at the Office of the State Actuary created and implemented a new process, helping over 10 different state agencies save over \$200,000 in the process.

The team updated a study of statewide Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters Retirement System (LEOFF) Plan 1 medical benefits. The team also created a helpful online tool that would allow individual employers the ability to enter summary information.



TOP ROW (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): Chris Jasperson, Christie Steele, Secretary Sam Reed, Troy Dempsey, Michael Harbour
BOTTOM ROW (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): Lisa Won, Keri Wallis, Elizabeth Hyde NOT PICTURED: Charlene Winner

By creating these new systems, the team was able to make submitting post-employment health care reports much more user friendly, saving employers time and money. Not only did their new system gather extremely positive comments and many thanks, it also helped save the agency \$220,000.

Secretary Reed welcomed the team to the April Productivity Board meeting and thanked the team members for their efforts.

"Any time you have employees come together to help save money and change processes, it's good," he said. "But when those employees help save other state agencies money too, it's even better."

The Productivity Board is committed to excellence in public service by demonstrating leadership. The Employee Suggestion Program and Teamwork Incentive Program encourage public employees to create, innovate and apply first-rate ideas.

Look who's saving Washington money!

Marie Repcik, Linda Buchanan and Alyssa Barada came together to change a process in the State Investment Board's printing of Board and Committee packets that would help save their agency \$4,665 in the first year.



EXCELLENCE

IN GOVERNMENT

Each year during the first full week of May, the State of Washington celebrates Public Service Recognition Week or PSRW. PSRW is a time set aside to honor the men and women who serve the citizens of our state. Celebrations were held this year in Olympia, Vancouver, Spokane, the Tri-Cities, and Seattle. Agencies and vendors came together for one purpose - to celebrate the contributions made by our public employees.



SEATTLE

Attendees witnessed the inaugural Seattle celebration at Memorial Stadium in the shadow of the Space Needle. Secretary Reed was also on hand to award Extra Mile winner John Little and Longevity Award recipients John Campbell and Estelle Ovadia.

The Washington State Patrol provided an amazing color guard presentation. Free food and live bands made the very first Seattle event a huge success.



OLYMPIA

An upbeat crowd of more than 700 people braved harsh rainy weather for a chance to tour the many vendor booths and partake in free food at the annual Olympia celebration. Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark was kind enough to welcome the Department of Corrections Color Guard and express his gratitude for public servants. Secretary Reed and Director of Printing Jean-Luc Devis were also seen cooking up hot dogs as a sign of great thanks for the efforts of their public employees.



VANCOUVER

The windy weather was no match for the enthusiastic state and local employees of Vancouver, who were celebrated with the help of a live band, 25 vendor booths and free food. Mayor Royce Pollard welcomed the crowd with a heartfelt greeting and a stirring proclamation.



SPOKANE

The Museum of Arts & Culture was the sight of the festivities, with local weatherman and celebrity George Maupin playing the Master of Ceremonies. Attendees were on hand to witness the handing out of Extra Mile Awards and numerous Longevity Awards. Free food and vendor booths welcomed the many visitors to the Spokane celebration.



TRI-CITIES

More than 400 attendees enjoyed the lone evening celebration of Public Service Recognition Week, as state employees brought their families to Chiawana Park for free food and entertainment. Senator Jerome Delvin was on hand to welcome and thank all those in the Tri-Cities area who help make our state and local governments operate.



Highlighted Suggestions



SUGGESTER: Cindy Hacker

SAVINGS: \$64,000

The trooper suggested that the agency have each district around the state enter into low-bid contracts for tow services. The Washington State Patrol enthusiastically approved the suggestion



SUGGESTERS: Jerry Hatcher, Jim Harvey and Dana Carroll

SAVINGS: \$20,275

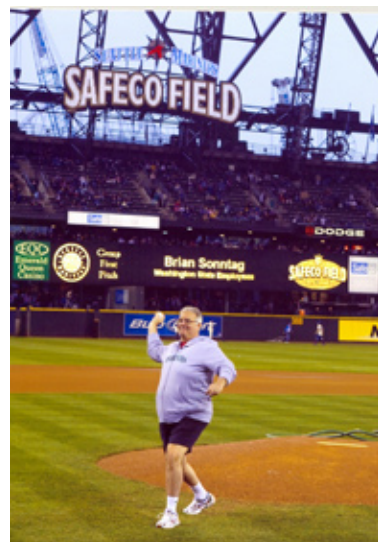
The team suggested that the agency utilize statewide transportation teams to collect and return all clothing eligible for reissue to the reception centers for cleaning, repairs and distribution.

MARINERS CELEBRATE EMPLOYEES IN NIGHT GAME AT SAFECO FIELD

The Seattle Mariners didn't just welcome the Oakland A's into town on Saturday, May 2.

More than 500 state employees were on hand as part of the team's annual State Employees Day. State Auditor and avid baseball fan Brian Sonntag threw out the first pitch in front of a nearly sold-out crowd. The game unofficially marked the start of Public Service Recognition Week, an annual event held in the first week of every May.

Though the Mariners would eventually lose the game, they provided a good time to all those who serve our government.



sudoku

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	7						2	
				7	8			9
8		7			9			
4				6		3		
						5		

Productivity Board Members:

- Governor Christine Gregoire - Ex-Officio
- Secretary of State Sam Reed - Chair
- State Auditor Brian Sonntag
- Department of General Administration Director Linda Villegas Bremer
- Department of Social and Health Services Appointee Kathleen Brockman
- Private Sector Representative - Retired Mike Kerschbaum PEMCO Financial Services
- Speaker of the House Appointee George Masten
- Office of Financial Management Appointee Roselyn Marcus
- Federation of State Employees Appointee Wanda Riley
- Department of Personnel Assistant Director Scott Turner
- Council of College Presidents Executive Director Terry Teale

Smart Government is a quarterly publication of the
**WASHINGTON STATE
PRODUCTIVITY BOARD**

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